

# Claims

[c1] What is claimed is:

1.A method of accessing a media access control (MAC) address or a 1394 globally unique identifier (GUID) serial number for a network interface controller (NIC) comprising:

storing the MAC address or the 1394 GUID serial number into a basic input/output system (BIOS); and

loading the MAC address or the 1394 GUID serial number from the BIOS into an operational register of the NIC.

[c2] 2.The method of accessing a MAC address or a 1394 GUID serial number in claim 1 further comprising checking if the NIC is enabled.

[c3] 3.The method of accessing a MAC address or a 1394 GUID serial number in claim 1 further comprising checking if the MAC address is valid.

[c4] 4.The method of accessing a MAC address or a 1394 GUID serial number in claim 1 wherein storing the MAC address or the 1394 GUID serial number into a BIOS comprises storing the MAC address or the 1394 GUID serial number into a desktop management interface

(DMI) region or an extended system configuration data (ESCD) region of the BIOS.

- [c5] 5.A method of accessing a MAC address or a 1394 GUID serial number for a NIC device comprising:  
storing the MAC address or the 1394 GUID serial number into a CMOS register; and  
loading the MAC address or the 1394 GUID serial number from the CMOS register into an operational register of the NIC device.
- [c6] 6.The method of accessing a MAC address or a 1394 GUID serial number in claim 5 further comprising checking if the NIC device is enabled.
- [c7] 7.The method of accessing a MAC address or a 1394 GUID serial number in claim 5 further comprising checking if the MAC address is valid.